

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the Sequence Listing, enclosed herewith, immediately after the Abstract.

Please insert the following sentence after the title of specification:

--This application is a national stage application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP2004/018895, filed December 17, 2004. The present application also claims the benefit of priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-419346, filed December 17, 2003.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 11 is a photograph showing the fluorescent images immediately after transferring the adhesive sheets shown in Fig. 11 to the allergen-measuring sheet (gel) according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 12 is a photograph showing the fluorescent images immediately after transferring the adhesive sheets shown in Fig. 11 to the allergen-measuring sheet (gel) according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The substrate which enables the measurement of protease activity based on the change in fluorescence characteristics of the substrate as a result of the enzyme reaction include compounds in which an oligopeptide(s) and/or amino acid(s) is(are) bound to a fluorescent substance. The fluorescence characteristics of these compounds change as a result of cleavage of

the bond between the oligopeptide or amino acid and the other structure. A number of such substrates are commercially available. Such a substrate comprises a peptide fragment having a sequence composed by randomly combined one to about 10 appropriate amino acid residues, whose carboxyl terminal, amino terminal or intermediate site is bound through an amide bond to a substance (e.g., MCA, methylcoumaryl-7-amide) which emits fluorescence upon being cleaved and liberated; to two types of substances (e.g., combination of Dnp: 2,4-dinitrophenyl and MOCAc: 7-methoxycoumarin, and the like) with which fluorescence is quenched when the two substances exist in one molecule but fluorescence is emitted upon at least one of the substances is cleaved off; or to a substance (e.g., p-nitroanilide, benzoyl glycine, methyl ester and ethyl ester) which gives change in absorbance at a particular wavelength upon being liberated. The terminal of such substrates may be protected by succinyl group, acetyl group, t-butyroxycarbonyl group or the like. Examples of such substrates include, but not limited to, Arg-MCA, Boc-Ala-Gly-Pro-Arg-MCA (Boc represents t-butyroxycarbonyl)(SEQ ID NO: 1), MOCAc-Arg-Pro-Lys-Pro-Tyr-Ala-Nva-Trp-Met-Lys(Dnp)-NH2(SEQ ID NO: 2), Ac-Arg-OMe-HC1 and Bz-Gly-Arg (Bz represents benzoyl) (All of these substrates are commercially available from PEPTIDE INSTITUTE INC). The substrates may be employed individually or in combination.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 18 and ending at page 12, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present inventors further invented pigments whose color is changed by the enzyme reaction by protease. That is, the present inventors discovered that when a protease acts on a colored compound which is a pigment having at least one amino group, in which an amino acid(s) and/or oligopeptide(s) is(are) bound to one or more of the at least one amino group through an amide bond(s), the amide bond(s) is(are) cleaved, that results in color change of the compound. The term "color change" herein means that both colors of the compound before and after the enzyme reaction can be visually seen, and the color change is discernible by visual observation. Color change may be more simply observed than fluorescence which requires excitation light, and even a slight change is more readily discernible than coloring (colorless compound is colored), so that observation of color change is advantageous. Preferred examples of the colored pigment include the pigments having an amino group(s) in a

conjugated system, such as cresyl violet, Safranin O, methylene violet 3RAX, Nile blue A, Darrow red, Azure A, Azure C, Brilliant cresyl blue, rhodamine 123 and thionine. Especially preferred examples include, but not limited to, cresyl violet, Safranin O and methylene violet 3RAX, having the following chemical structures:

